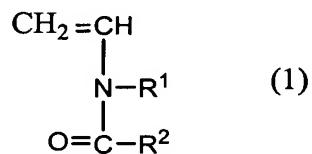


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

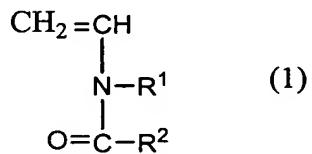
Claim 10 (New): An ink or paint comprising from 1 to 25 % by weight, as a binder for said ink or paint, a polyvinyl acetal having N-vinylamide monomer units in the molecule, wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is represented by the following formula (1)



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and R² represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is N-vinyl-2-caprolactam.

Claim 11 (New): A process of producing the ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, comprising adding said polyvinyl acetal having N-vinylamide monomer units in the molecule as a binder to an ink or paint.

Claim 12 (New): A ceramic green sheet formed with a binder, wherein the binder is a polyvinyl acetal having N-vinylamide monomer units in the molecule, wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is represented by the following formula (1)



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and R² represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or wherein the N-vinylamide monomer is N-vinyl-2-caprolactam.

Claim 13 (New): A process of producing the ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, comprising adding said polyvinyl acetal having N-vinylamide monomer units in the molecule as a binder to a ceramic powder, and forming said ceramic green sheet therefrom.

Claim 14 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.01 to 20 mol % of vinyl ester monomer units and from 0.1 to 20 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units and has a degree of acetalization of from 45 to 80 mol% when the vinyl acetal monomer units therein are counted in terms of the number of two acetalized vinyl alcohol monomer units.

Claim 15 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.01 to 20 mol % of vinyl ester monomer units and from 0.1 to 20 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units and has a degree of acetalization of from 45 to 80 mol% when the vinyl acetal monomer units therein are counted in terms of the number of two acetalized vinyl alcohol monomer units.

Claim 16 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained through acetalization of a polyvinyl alcohol that has from 0.1 to 20 mol % of N-vinylamide monomer units and from 0.01 to 20 mol% of vinyl ester monomer units in the molecule.

Claim 17 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained through acetalization of a polyvinyl alcohol that has from 0.1 to 20 mol % of N-vinylamide monomer units and from 0.01 to 20 mol% of vinyl ester monomer units in the molecule.

Claim 18 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.5 to 15 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 19 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 15, wherein polyvinyl acetal contains from 0.5 to 15 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 20 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 1 to 12 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 21 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polyvinyl acetal contains from 1 to 12 mol% of N-vinylamide monomer units.

Claim 22 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 14, wherein the degree of acetalization of from 50 to 78 mol%.

Claim 23 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 15, wherein the degree of acetalization of from 50 to 78 mol%.

Claim 24 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 10, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained from at least one aldehyde selected from the group consisting of alkylaldehydes having at most 4 carbon atoms and benzaldehyde.

Claim 25 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyvinyl acetal is obtained from at least one aldehyde selected from the group consisting of alkylaldehydes having at most 4 carbon atoms and benzaldehyde.

Claim 26 (New): The ink or paint as claimed in claim 24, wherein the aldehyde is butyraldehyde.

Claim 27 (New): The ceramic green sheet as claimed in claim 25, wherein the aldehyde is butyraldehyde.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-9 have been canceled.

New Claims 10-27 have been added. Claim 10 is based on the combination of Claim 7 and Claims 4 or 5. Claim 12 is based on the combination of Claim 9 and Claims 4 or 5. Claims 11 and 13 are process claims for making the subject matter of Claims 10 and 12, respectively. Claims 14 and 16 correspond to Claims 2 and 3, respectively, but depend on Claim 10. Claims 15 and 17 correspond to Claims 2 and 3, respectively, but depend on Claim 12. Claims 18-21 are supported in the specification at page 5, line 15. Claims 22-23 are supported in the specification at page 7, lines 9-10. Finally, Claims 24-27 are supported in the specification at page 8, lines 18-23, and page 24, line 5. (Note that the terms "butyraldehyde" and "butylaldehyde" have been used interchangeably herein).

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 10-27 are now pending in the application.